

vision that takes its inspiration from the Founding Fathers of our great Nation, Founders who declared our independence, fought a revolution against government tyranny, and then after 4 months of heated debate and honorable compromise crafted a sacred document that is still revered 211 years later. The Constitution of the United States is the document that guides us all, Democrats and Republicans, through this ongoing experiment in Democratic self-government.

Let us agree, all of us on both sides of the aisle, that we share a common vision that America stands for liberty and the freedom to pursue our dreams from sea to shining sea. And may God bless America.

GROWING COMMUNITIES HELP WITH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to pass legislation to assist States and local communities meeting their need to build new schools, reduce overcrowding and improve good discipline and quality instruction.

Yesterday, the number crunchers at the Census Bureau confirmed what many of us already know, communities across America are growing with leaps and bounds. For example, in Wake County, one of my counties in my district, it grew by 29.4 percent from 1990 to 1997. That is an additional 125,000-plus people. Likewise, another county, Johnston County, has grown by more than 25 percent during that same period.

This tremendous growth places a heavy burden on our communities to build schools to teach our children. The result is that we have children attending schools in trailers and in dilapidated buildings. The Secretary of Education has projected an explosion of growth in the school age population in the years to come in every State in this country.

The baby boom echo is now upon us. It is up to Congress to move and act. Children do not care who funds build-ings. They want them funded.

KYOTO TREATY OF CLIMATE CHANGE

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the oversight delegation that attended the negotiations over the U.N. treaty on climate change, I am absolutely outraged by U.N. official Raul Estrada's comments about congressional opposition to the overreaching Kyoto Accord.

As I mentioned yesterday, Mr. Estrada and the rest of the world need

to understand that, as representatives of the United States, our first obligation is to protect America's interests. The Kyoto treaty places the entire burden of reducing greenhouse gas emissions on developed nations and most particularly the United States, while giving developing nations like China, India, Mexico and Brazil a free pass. This would impose unrealistic burdens on the American people and significantly lower the standard of living of our country. Make no mistake about it, if this treaty goes through, we will lose jobs and our citizens will pay more for goods and services.

Mr. Speaker, while the rest of the world may have an interest in seeing America's economy suffer, we do not. I urge my colleagues to remain firm in their opposition to the Kyoto treaty on climate change.

TRUST BUT VERIFY

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago the White House told China, If you promise to stop selling missiles to terrorist nations, we will give you most favored nation trade status; and China said, Good, that's great. Okay.

Last year the White House said, Look, you are breaking your promise, China; you are selling missiles to Iran and Iraq. Come on. They said, Okay, you are right. This time we will stop.

This year the White House has just announced that they are going to share our nuclear technology programs with China because China has promised to stop this madness, and they said this time China really means it.

Beam me up. These are not promises; these are lies. I would like to say one thing. Somebody is inhaling over at the White House with this program with China. We are financing the biggest national security threat in our history, Mr. Speaker. I think Ronald Reagan's words "trust but verify" should be taken to heart in this Congress.

APRIL 15 TAX FILING DEADLINE

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, while millions of Americans took time out last Sunday night to either defend or condemn the President's job interviewing techniques, the clock kept right on ticking towards that April 15 deadline. That is right, Mr. Speaker, I am talking about the April 15 tax filing deadline, a National day of reckoning for taxpayers across the Nation.

Most Americans tend to put off their tax filing because it is such an unpleasant task. Do my colleagues realize that Tax Freedom Day this year is May 9, which means that everything they earn until May 9 goes to Washington and

only after that are they entitled to the fruits of their labor?

The Tax Code is so complex that millions of Americans need to pay for professional help just to figure out how much they owe. Mr. Speaker, Washington is giving the taxpayers of this Nation a lousy deal. Washington wastes too much of the taxpayers' money and then adds insult to injury by making it almost impossible to figure out how much this Government is going to fleece them for. It is taxpayer abuse, plain and simple.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. DAVIS of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as the recent report of the Thompson Senate Committee demonstrates, there is widespread and serious abuse of our Nation's campaign finance system on both sides.

One of the most rapidly growing excesses is that of soft money, unlimited amounts of money people can contribute to either political party. And the other is the incredible proliferation of advertising by outside third-party groups.

That is why a substantial portion of the Democratic freshmen in this House, together with Members of the Republican freshmen class, have filed a bill calling for a ban on soft money and mandating disclosure with respect to these outside third-party ads.

The Speaker said the House will soon take up campaign finance reform. Mr. Speaker, an increasing number of American citizens are watching closely to see whether we take this issue seriously and whether we are going to do something about it. When we take up campaign finance reform; let us take up a real bill, let us take up one that bans soft money; let us take up one that forces disclosure with respect to these ads by outside third-party groups.

KYOTO CLIMATE TREATY

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, my father used to tell me that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." Will our Federal Government ever get it right? Unfortunately, the Kyoto climate treaty tries not only to fix something that is not broken, it fails miserably to do what its supporters say it will do.

Despite the lack of concrete scientific evidence today of the existence of global warming, this President is more than willing to put millions of American jobs at risk by signing the ill-conceived treaty. Entering into this agreement will cause unemployment to rise, prices to rise, American productivity to decline, and the American economy to be less competitive in the